

**FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR
THE OLD HOSPITAL, PARCEL 95(7)
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

OCTOBER 2000

**U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES
DECISION DOCUMENT**

This Decision Document presents the determination that no further remedial action will be necessary to protect human health and the environment at the Old Hospital, Parcel 95(7) at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. The location of the Old Hospital, Parcel 95(7) at FTMC is shown on Figure 1. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the no further action decision.

This Decision Document is issued by the U.S. Army Garrison at FTMC with involvement by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT). The BCT is comprised of representatives from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IV, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. The BCT is responsible for planning and implementing environmental investigations at FTMC.

Based on the results of the site investigation (SI) completed at the Old Hospital, Parcel 95(7), the U.S. Army will implement no

further action at the site. This decision was made by the U.S. Army with concurrence by the BCT.

This Decision Document summarizes site information presented in detail in background documents that are part of the administrative record for the Old Hospital, Parcel 95(7). A list of background documents for Parcel 95(7) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcel 95(7) is available at the public repositories listed on Page 3.

**REGULATIONS GOVERNING
SITE**

FTMC is undergoing closure by the BRAC Commission under Public Laws 100-526 and 101-510. The 1990 Base Closure Act, Public Law 101-510 established the process by which U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) installations would be closed or realigned. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program requires investigation and cleanup of federal properties prior to transfer to the public domain. In addition, the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA) (Public Law 102-426) requires federal agencies to identify real property

on military installations scheduled for closure that can be transferred to the public for redevelopment or reuse. Consequently, the U.S. Army is conducting environmental studies of the impact of suspected contaminants at parcels at FTMC. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC follows the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act process.

SITE BACKGROUND

FTMC is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of northeastern Alabama near the cities of Anniston and Weaver in Calhoun County. FTMC is comprised of two main areas of government-owned properties: the Main Post and Pelham Range. Until May 1998, the FTMC installation also included the Choccolocco Corridor, a 4,488-acre tract of land that was leased from the State of Alabama. The Main Post, which comprises 18,929 acres, is bounded on the east by the Choccolocco Corridor, which previously connected the Main Post with the Talladega National Forest. Pelham Range, which comprises 22,245 acres, is located approximately 5 miles due

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 95(7)

Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. (ESE), 1998, *Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, prepared for U.S. Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, January.

IT Corporation (IT), 2000a, *Final Site Investigation Report, Old Hospital, Parcel 95(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, October.

IT Corporation (IT), 2000b, *Final Human Health and Ecological Screening Values and PAH Background Summary Report, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, July.

IT Corporation (IT), 1998, *Final Site-Specific Field Sampling Plan Attachment Site Investigation at the Old Hospital, Parcel 95(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, September.

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), 1998, *Final Background Metals Survey Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, July.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1961, *Soil Survey, Calhoun County, Alabama*, Soil Conservation Service, Series 1958, No. 9, September.

west of the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

The Old Hospital is located in the central part of the Main Post of FTMC. The Old Hospital is bounded by 20th Street to the north, 3rd Avenue to the east, 22nd Street to the south, and 6th Avenue to the west (Figure 1). The Old Hospital complex, which was built between 1941 and 1943, contained 110 buildings and had 4.5 miles of catwalks designed to provide access throughout the area. The Old Hospital was reportedly renovated in 1951 to accommodate the Specialized Treatment Center of the Third Army, concerned with treating chest diseases.

The Old Hospital was connected to the sanitary sewer system. A series of stormwater drainage ditches located along the southern border of the site appears to have coursed

through the complex and discharged into Cane Creek, which flows along the western side of the site. Information is not available on the handling, storage, or disposal of generated hazardous substances at the site. The standard disposal practice for hazardous wastes during the time the Old Hospital was active was on-post incineration. This disposal method is assumed to have been implemented since there was not any evidence of hazardous waste disposal at the site (Environmental Science and Engineering, 1998).

The Old Hospital ceased operation in 1955 and new buildings were constructed at the site in 1988. The buildings are used for housing military personnel and office storage. Some of the buildings constructed in 1941 still exist in the southern section of the site (Figure 1). A 1954 aerial photograph with imagery of the former buildings

and catwalks shows that numerous structures formerly existed on the parcel compared to the current configuration of buildings. The aerial photograph was used to assist in determining sample locations for the SI.

The soil type at the Old Hospital is classified as Rarden Series (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1961). These soils are moderately well drained, strongly acidic soils. They generally occur on wide shale ridges. Rarden soils are developed from the residuum of shale and fine-grained, platy sandstone or limestone. In eroded areas, the surface soil is brown silt loam. The subsoil is yellowish-red clay or silty clay. Site elevation ranges from approximately 805 feet mean sea level in the northeastern section of the site and slopes towards the southwest to approximately 775 feet mean sea level.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES
FOR FORT MCCLELLAN**

Anniston Calhoun County Public Library

Reference Section

Anniston, Alabama 36201

Point of Contact: Ms. Sunny Addison

Tele: (256) 237-8501

Fax: (256) 238-0474

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Houston Cole Library

9th Floor

Jacksonville State University

700 Pelham Road

Jacksonville, Alabama 36265

Point of Contact: Ms. Rita Smith (256) 782-5249

Hours of Operation: Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

**SCOPE AND ROLE OF
PARCEL**

Information developed from the environmental baseline survey was used to group areas at FTMC into standardized parcel categories using DOD guidance (ESE, 1998). All parcels received a parcel designation for one of seven CERFA categories, or a non-Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act qualifier designation, as appropriate. The seven CERFA categories include CERFA Parcels (Categories 1 and 2), CERFA Contaminated Parcels (Categories

3 through 7), and CERFA Qualified Parcels. The Old Hospital, Parcel 95(7) was categorized as a CERFA Category 7 parcel. CERFA Category 7 parcels are areas that are not evaluated or require further evaluation (ESE, 1998).

SITE INVESTIGATION

An SI was conducted at the Old Hospital, Parcel 95(7). The SI was conducted to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the Old Hospital, Parcel 95(7) at concentrations that would present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

Twenty surface soil samples, four depositional soil samples, forty-eight subsurface soil samples, five surface water samples, and five sediment samples were collected at the Old Hospital, Parcel 95(7). Surface and depositional soil samples were collected from the upper 1 foot of soil; subsurface soil samples were collected at depths greater than 1 foot below ground surface. Surface water and sediment samples were collected from surface water and drainage features associated with the parcel. Samples were analyzed for target analyte list metals, target compound list volatile organic

compounds (VOC), and target compound list semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC). In addition, the sediment samples were analyzed for total organic carbon content and for the determination of grain-size.

The analytical results indicate that metals, VOCs, and SVOCs were detected in the environmental media sampled. To evaluate whether the detected constituents present an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment, detected constituent concentrations were compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) for FTMC. The SSSLs and ESVs were developed as part of human health and ecological risk evaluations associated with SIs being performed under the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC. Additionally, metal concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to media-specific background screening values (Science Applications International Corporation, 1998), and SVOC concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs in surface and depositional soils were compared to polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) background screening values developed for FTMC.

Several metals and SVOCs were detected in site media (primarily surface and depositional soils) at concentrations exceeding ESVs. In addition, one VOC (chloroform) was detected in one surface soil sample at a concentration exceeding the ESV. However, the

potential impact to ecological receptors is expected to be minimal based on the existing viable habitat and site conditions. The site is a well-developed area, consisting of buildings and paved roads/areas interspersed with grassy areas, and is projected for continued use as an education/training area. Viable ecological habitat is presently limited and is not expected to increase in the future land use scenario. Consequently, the potential threat to ecological receptors is expected to be low.

The potential threat to human receptors is also expected to be low. Although the site is projected for future use as an education/training area, the soils data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the parcel for possible unrestricted future use. With the exception of mercury in one surface soil sample and iron in four subsurface soil samples, the metals detected in site media were within background concentrations or the range of background values. The iron results were within the same order of magnitude as background concentrations. The mercury concentration (2.5 milligrams per kilogram [mg/kg]) exceeded the residential human health SSSL (2.33 mg/kg) at one sample location (FTA-95-GP37). However, mercury was not detected in the subsurface soil sample collected at FTA-95-GP37 and mercury concentrations in six surface soil sample locations surrounding FTA-95-GP37 were below the SSSL. The extent of the mercury contamination is defined horizontally and vertically and is very limited. Given the limited

impacted area, the iron and mercury are not expected to pose a substantial threat to human health in either the education/training or residential land-use scenario.

The concentrations of four SVOCs (benzo[a]anthracene, benzo[a]pyrene, benzo[b]fluoranthene, and indeno[1,2,3-cd]pyrene) exceeded SSSLs and PAH background values at two surface soil locations (FTA-95-GP32 and FTA-95-GP44). In addition, the concentration of dibenz[a,h]anthracene exceeded the SSSL and the PAH background value at FTA-95-GP44. These sample locations were immediately adjacent to (FTA-95-GP32) or beneath (FTA-95-GP44) old asphalt areas, which have likely leached these compounds to the surrounding surface soils causing the elevated SVOC results. With the exception of the dibenz(a,h)anthracene and indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene results, the concentrations of these SVOCs in both samples were within the same order of magnitude as the PAH background screening values. The concentrations of the SVOCs detected at FTA-95-GP32 and FTA-95-GP44 ranged from 1.2 mg/kg to 8.7 mg/kg. SVOCs were not detected in the subsurface soil samples collected at these locations.

In subsurface soils, benzo(a)pyrene (five locations) and dibenz(a,h)anthracene (one location) exceeded SSSLs. However, the cumulative concentration (1.03 mg/kg) of these two SVOCs in subsurface soils is very low. Given the limited distribution and low

concentrations, the SVOCs detected in surface, depositional, and subsurface soils are not expected to pose a substantial threat to human health.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Old Hospital, Parcel 95(7).

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 95(7). No further action is selected because remedial action is unnecessary to protect human health or the environment at this site. The metals and organic compounds detected in site media at the Old Hospital, Parcel 95(7) do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Therefore, the site is released for unrestricted future land use with regard to hazardous, toxic, or radioactive waste. The U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Old Hospital, Parcel 95(7).

The following costs are associated with implementing the no-action alternative:

Capital Cost:	\$0
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs:	\$0
Present Worth Cost:	\$0
Months to Implement:	None
Remedial Duration:	None.

DECLARATION

Further remedial action is unnecessary at the Old Hospital, Parcel 95(7). The no further action remedy protects human health and the environment in the proposed land reuse scenario, complies with federal and state regulations that are legally applicable or relevant and appropriate to this remedial action, and is a cost-effective application of public funds. This remedy will not leave in place hazardous substances at concentrations that require limiting the future use of the parcel, or that require land-use control restrictions to exposure. The site is released for unrestricted future land use with regard to hazardous, toxic, or radioactive waste. There will not be any further remedial costs associated with implementing no further action at the Old Hospital, Parcel 95(7).

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Any questions or comments concerning this Decision Document or other documents in the administrative record can be directed to:

Mr. Ron Levy
Fort McClellan BRAC
Environmental Coordinator
Tel: (256) 848-3539

E-mail: LevyR@mcclellan-emh2.army.mil

GLOSSARY

BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
ESE	Environmental and Science Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
mg/kg	milligrams per kilogram
PAH	polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
TOC	total organic carbon
VOC	volatile organic compound

Prepared under direction of:

Ellis Pope
Environmental Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Mobile, Alabama

Date

Reviewed by:

Lisa Kingsbury
Fort McClellan BRAC Project Manager
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date

Ron Levy
Fort McClellan BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date

Approval

Glynn D. Ryan
Fort McClellan Site Manager
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date